

OZONE ADVANCE

April 24, 2012 Webinar
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Overview



- What is Ozone Advance?
- Why should attainment areas work to reduce ozone?
- Who can participate?
- What are the criteria for program eligibility?
- What might you get out of participating?
- What does participation mean?
- What clarifications were made to the program guidance?
- Who has expressed interest?



What is Ozone Advance?

Ozone Advance is a collaborative effort by EPA, states, tribes, and local governments to encourage emission reductions in ozone attainment areas, to help them continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Program Goals:

- (1) Help attainment areas take action in order to keep ozone levels below the level of the standard to ensure continued health protection,
- (2) Better position areas to remain in attainment,
- (3) Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly.

Why Should Attainment Areas Work to Reduce Ozone?

- Ensure continued **health** protection
- **Less resource intensive** to implement measures early
- More **flexibility** to pursue a wide range of options
- **Proactive**
 - Could better position some areas to stay in attainment
 - If eventually designated, could provide needed reductions that could result in a lower classification and/or that could feed into any eventual SIP
- EPA could consider early efforts as a **factor in exercising its discretion to redesignate** areas not violating in 2008-10 but violating in later years to nonattainment
- Multi-pollutant **co-benefits**

Who Can Participate?

- States, tribes, local governments (S/T/L)
- Councils of Government (COGs)
- Other stakeholders, in conjunction with any of the above
- “Lead” participant?



What Are the Criteria for Program Eligibility?

- Area must not be nonattainment for either 1997 or 2008 8-hour standards at the time the S/T/L(s) is/are accepted into the program.
 - Maintenance areas
 - Eventual Marginal areas
- S/T/L should generally identify the area
- S/T/L should identify the monitor(s) that reflect the area's air quality
- Required emissions inventory reporting should be complete

What Might You Get Out Of Participating?

- EPA support
- Rallying point for public/stakeholder awareness and involvement
- Framework for action
- Preferred status for DERA grants, see www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm
- Possible recognition
- Opportunity to highlight measures/programs already underway along with those undertaken as part of Program
- Stakeholder group formation, engagement

What Does Participation Mean?



- Use best efforts to move quickly toward implementing steps that may reduce ozone levels
- Develop a “path forward” within a year
- Implement path forward measures/programs as soon as possible
- Informal status check-ins at least annually

What Clarifications Were Made to the Program Guidance?

1. Eligibility criteria, acceptance into the program
2. Nonattainment areas (1997 NAAQS) that are now attaining must be redesignated attainment to participate
3. Soon to be Marginal areas have until the effective date of designations to sign up
4. DERA preference (RFP posted April 20, closes June 4; see www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm)
5. Multi-pollutant reductions
6. Existing measures along with new measures
7. Transport
8. Areas likely to attain via Federal measures
9. Can incorporate measures into a SIP anytime
10. Ozone Flex

Who Has Expressed Interest?



- Wyoming DEQ has been accepted into the program
- No trends yet; potential participants are widely scattered across the country.
- We have talked with various states and local areas, and will continue to reach out.

Contacts

- Questions about Ozone Advance

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